

NEWS.

MR. ABEL A. HUNTER has been appointed botanical collector for the University of Nebraska.

THE UNIVERSITY of Geneva has conferred the degree of Ph.D. *honoris causa* upon M. Casimir de Candolle.

DR. CARL E. CORRENS has been advanced to the assistant professorship of botany in the University of Tübingen.

DR. WILHELM FIGDOR has been appointed docent for anatomy and physiology of plants in the University of Vienna.

HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & Co.'s fall announcements include a book entitled *Animal and plant lore*, by Mrs. Fanny D. Bergen.

DR. J. M. JANSE, of the botanical garden at Buitenzorg, Java, has been appointed professor of botany in the University of Leiden.

DR. K. GIESENHAGEN, of Munich, has received from the government a subvention of M6000 for an investigating tour to Malacca.

DR. L. HILTNER has been appointed director of the bacteriological laboratory of the biological division of the Imperial Bureau of Hygiene in Berlin.

PROFESSOR GEORGE W. MARTIN, teacher of biology in the Indianapolis High School, has been appointed professor of biology in Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

MR. C. G. PRINGLE has returned from his fifteenth year in the collection of Mexican plants. His health has not been good, but, as usual, he returns with a collection of choice plants.

DR. PAUL KNUTH, of Kiel, has returned to his home from his journey around the world. He has brought with him abundant ecological material from Java, Japan, and California.

IN A RECENT FIRE which destroyed the entire stock of Jacob North & Sons, in Lincoln, Neb., all the unsold copies of Pound and Clements' *Phytogeography of Nebraska* were burned.

DR. AUGUST N. BERLESE, heretofore professor of botany in the University of Camerino, has been appointed professor of natural sciences in the Royal Lyceum. Dr. J. B. DeToni has been appointed to the position thus

vacated by Professor Berlese. Dr. DeToni's address, however, will still be Padua.

ON MAY 1 the north wing of the great temperate house at Kew Gardens was opened to the public. The center of this house was built in 1862, and the south wing in 1894. The building is 628 feet long, with a maximum width of 164 feet and a height of 60 feet. It covers one and two thirds acres, and has cost £43,000.

THE INTERNATIONAL scientific medal of the *Academie Internationale de Geographie Botanique* has been conferred upon Dr. N. M. Glatfelter, of St. Louis, for his work upon *Salix*, and upon Dr. Roscoe Pound, of Lincoln, Neb., for his phytogeographical researches. Fifteen investigators in Europe have been similarly honored.

THE LINNEAN MEDAL has been awarded to Mr. J. G. Baker, late keeper of the herbarium and library of the Kew Gardens, "for his services to botany during a long series of years, especially his writings on ferns and petaloid monocotyledons, serviceable alike to botanists and cultivators." The presentation occurred at the anniversary meeting, May 24.

THE MACMILLAN COMPANY announce for publication this autumn a *Handbook of North American Myxomycetes* by Professor Thos. H. Macbride, of the University of Iowa. The work includes descriptions of all species hitherto described from North America, with brief synonymy, accompanied by diagnostic notes. The work is to be illustrated by nineteen full-page plates.

BY THE cooperation of a local mountain club, Dr. R. von Wettstein, the director of the Vienna botanical garden, has been enabled to establish a biological experiment station in the Tyrolese central Alps near the "Bremer-Hütte" in the Gschnitzthal, at an elevation of 2300^m. A room in the cottage has been fitted up for a laboratory. Research will be directed first to the production of species by direct adaptation.

MR. C. L. POLLARD of the National Museum, aided by Professor E. L. Greene, has undertaken the distribution of authentic sets of North American *Violaceæ*. Forty sets are in preparation and the museum offers them in return for an equivalent amount of selected duplicates, either in the *Violaceæ* or other groups. Decades will be issued at irregular intervals, as rapidly as material can be secured and labels printed.

THE POSSIBILITY of obtaining separates of articles from periodicals often renders possible the carrying on of investigations apart from the great libraries. We welcome, therefore, every establishment which facilitates the diffusion of such literature. Mr. A. I. Eriksson, Tufts College, Mass., is going into the business of dealing in natural history books and author's separates.

He will act as agent for authors who wish to dispose of any of their publications. A catalogue will be issued shortly.

AT THE MEETING of the St. Louis Academy of Science, held on the evening of October 16, Dr. H. von Schrenk presented some notes on *Arceuthobium pusillum*, which was found in Maine during the past summer, growing on the white spruce along the seacoast. The trees which are attacked form large witches' brooms, the branches of which are much longer than the normal branches. The manner in which the seeds are distributed was briefly described, and seeds were exhibited adhering to branches of the white spruce.

MR. O. F. COOK, of the Division of Botany, Department of Agriculture, has been detailed to make a preliminary examination of the plant products of Puerto Rico with reference to the introduction of new and useful tropical plants into that island. Mr. Cook is accompanied by Mr. G. N. Collins of the Department of Agriculture as photographer, and by Mr. George P. Gall, who is sent by the Smithsonian Institution to collect material for the National Herbarium. The expedition left New York on October 28 by the United States transport MacPherson.—*Science*, Nov. 3, 1899.

THE DISTINGUISHED French horticulturist Henri Lévêque de Vilmorin was stricken by apoplexy and died at Verrières on August 24, in his fifty-seventh year. He visited this country in 1893, when many of our botanists had the pleasure of meeting him at Madison, Wisconsin. Henry Vilmorin was not only the head of the historic house of Vilmorin & Co., the largest seed firm in France, but personally directed in large part the numerous experiments for the improvement of cultivated plants which the firm were continually conducting at Antibes, Verrières, and Ferme de St. Fiacre. Vilmorin was widely honored by scientific societies and has made valuable contributions to horticultural literature.

ON MARCH 3, 1899, a bill was passed by Congress providing "that on or before January 1, 1903, the fence around the Botanical Garden shall be removed; provided that at the first session of the LVI Congress the Joint Committee on Library is directed to report a bill embodying a plan for removing the Botanical Garden to another location." The present Botanical Garden is far too restricted to serve the purpose of a national establishment. With the rapid development of such gardens as those at New York and St. Louis, the national garden at Washington becomes insignificant. The proposition to remove it is most commendable. The chief danger arises from the fact that a site suggested is so far removed from the centers of botanical work as to prevent the new garden from becoming of the greatest scientific service.

MR. WALTER T. SWINGLE, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, has returned from eighteen months' travel in Europe, North Africa, and Asia Minor, where he has been studying the agriculture and horticulture, with a

view of introducing new agricultural industries into America. The journey was under the direction of the Section of Plant and Seed Introduction of the Division of Botany. He paid particular attention to the date industry of the Sahara desert, and to fig culture as practiced in Greece and Asiatic Turkey, since both of these industries are likely to be introduced very shortly into our own southwestern states. Incidentally he noted many points of great biological interest. The caprification of the fig is still practiced as described by Aristotle more than two thousand years ago, and a careful study of the commensalism and symbiosis of the fig plant and *Blastophaga* is by no means superfluous, but on the contrary very much needed, since all previous students have studied it at the same time of the year, and many doubtful points remain to be cleared up. Mr. Swingle is going to California very shortly to study the fig industry of our own Pacific coast.

PROFESSOR W. A. SETCHELL, Dr. W. L. Jepson, Mr. L. E. Hunt, and Mr. A. A. Lawson, of the University of California, have returned to Berkeley from a botanical expedition to Unalaska. Dr. Jepson studied the flowering plants, Professor Setchell and Mr. Lawson the flowerless plants, while Mr. Hunt, who is in the Civil Engineering Department, determined altitudes and took the photographs of plant communities, etc. The party remained at Unalaska for eight weeks and carried out its work as planned, collecting thoroughly in the neighborhood of Unalaska bay, making extensive field notes, and securing a fairly full collection of photographs. Professor Setchell left Unalaska for about three weeks, on a trip to St. Michael and Cape Nome, collecting plants of all kinds and making notes as to points of distribution and ecology. Returning, the party went from Unalaska to Sitka along the coast, collecting at Unga, Karluk, Kodiak, Orca, Juneau, and Sitka. They were thus able to trace many plants of the shores along a considerable portion of the Alaska coast, and to note the changes in habit and the difference in altitudinal distribution. There is a very considerable amount of material accumulated and it will not be known until it is carefully worked over how much of it is new, or just to what extent it will throw light on matters of distribution. The collections of marine algæ, taken in connection with other collections made in Alaska, Washington, California, and Mexico during the last four or five years, it is hoped, will indicate the limits of the various algal floras of the Pacific coast of North America when they are properly determined and tabulated, and will afford the basis for some exact inquiry into the causes of demarcation.—*Science*, Oct. 13, 1899.